

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 SS-15

NSC-05 AID-05 FDRE-00 EA-06 L-02 H-02 SP-02 CIAE-00

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R 092011Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6720

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

FOR AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROWN

REF: A. STATE 97854; B. STATE 100945

1. ON MAY 6 CHARGE MADE ORAL DEMARCHE TO MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AT THE PERMANENT SECRETARY LEVEL ON THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THE BAHAMAS. THE REACTION TO THE PRESENTATION WHICH ENCOMPASSED THE POINTS IN REFTEL A WAS SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT AS TO WHETHER THE BAHAMAS WILL ACCEPT REFUGEES. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE GCOB WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE UNHCR ON QUESTIONS OF POLITICAL ASYLUM, RECOGNIZING EACH NATION HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST THE STATELESS. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THIS ATTITUDE WOULD EXTEND TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE KINDS OF REFUGEES WHO MIGHT COME HERE, THE CHARGE UNDERLINED THE POINT THAT THE US REALIZES THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOME LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MAY NOT PERMIT ACCEPTANCE OF POOR REFUGEES AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GCOB IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR WHICH BAHAMIAN

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SKILLS WERE NOT NOW AVAILABLE AND RELATE THE NEED FOR

HUMAN RESOURCES THAT EMERGED TO THE PROBLEM OF RESETTLEMENT
OF VIETNAMESS WITH PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

3. AS AMBASSADOR WEISS POINTED OUT IN NASSAU 716,
GCOB CONSIDERATION OF THIS APPROACH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
BAHAMIAN IMMIGRATION POLICY. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THE
CASE FOR THE BAHAMAS DOING ITS PART RECEIVED A FAIR HEARING
AND, DESPITE CONTINUING BAHAMIAN CONCERN OVER THE PRESENCE
OF 15-20,000 ILLEGAL HAITIANS IN THE COUNTRY ALSO WILL
RECEIVE A FAIR HEARING IN THE CABINET. WE WILL ADVISE YOU OF THE
OUTCOME.
RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DEMARCHE
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Draft Date: 09 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: AEMR, SREF, BF, US, VS
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